

# Beat the casinos at Blackjack

**The legitimate way to  
beat the casinos  
and make a fortune**



#### Legal Notice

©2008 William A Goulden. This book may be distributed via digital, text or electronic means, without charge, on the condition that it remains unchanged and is reprinted in its entirety. Sellers may charge a fee to cover handling and distribution, but this fee must not exceed 10 USD. Copyright of all copies is withheld by William A Goulden. For enquiries or updates please contact [w.goulden@1st-casinos.co.uk](mailto:w.goulden@1st-casinos.co.uk)

---

# CONTENTS

---

## **Introduction**

- 1 - How to Play Blackjack**
- 2 - The Tools You Need to Get Started**
- 3 - Playing Blackjack At Online Casinos**
- 4 - Winning With Casino Money**
- 5 - A Perfect Blackjack Strategy**
- 6 - Example Betting Systems**
- 7 - Death Valley and the Serpents' Tooth**
- 8 - How to Achieve Blackjack Nirvana**
- 9 - Five Low-Risk Blackjack Games**
- 10 - References and Resources**

— <> —

---

## Introduction

---

*If you can make a heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and toss  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss  
...you'll be a Man, my son!*

*Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) from his poem "If"*

It has often been said that only fools embark upon a career in gambling - well if this is indeed the case then recent estimates reveal that at the moment the Internet is populated with approximately 80 million very stupid individuals generating an online revenue expected to exceed \$3 billion in 2005!

In the e-Gambling Report of 2001 Merrill Lynch predicted a very rosy future for online gambling. She stated that in her opinion ...

***"The market for online casinos could be worth \$US215 Billion in accumulated bet value by 2015."***

If that is even 50% accurate it is indeed a phenomenal proposition!

### **Cyber-Revenue**

The Internet has actually seen this sort of incredible tidal rise before. Back in the late 1990s it was pornography that captured the imagination and pockets of cyber-wanderers. Today, and probably for the foreseeable future, it is the gambling sector which is leading the way in cyber revenue with online casinos operating at the fore-front of this astounding revolution.

It is a truly remarkable phenomenon that creates millionaires every day - just at the click of a mouse button.  
**Sounds great doesn't it?**

Well yes and no. The reality is that everything that your mother ever told you about gambling is probably true. It is a very seductive, addictive and unforgiving past time. The statistics speak for themselves for whilst the opportunity of a massive win can mean financial freedom it is estimated that in truth the average casino visitor does not win any sizeable amounts at all. In fact it is estimated that he/she loses on average \$350 per week, every week, at some form of online gaming!

This is an interesting statistic because it suggests that most visitors to an online casino **do not expect to win**. The fact that these losses are repeated each and every week reveals that most gamblers are happy with their losses which they are prepared to shoulder just for the thrill and entertainment value that betting online offers. These type of players merely view their losses within the context of the price of a typical night out spent at a restaurant, the cinema or any other form of entertainment

**I wonder how much more they would enjoy their pastime if they knew there was a greater than average chance of actually coming away from a casino each time - in profit!**

Well, believe it or not there is and during the course of the following pages I am going to tell you how I achieve this each and every day from the comfort of my own home.

## **The Secret to Gambling Success!**

There are a wide range of different gambling games available on line. From Slots through to Craps there is something on offer to cater to every taste. However not all of them will create a profit for a player in the long term for most of those that are available at online casinos are 'games of chance'. They are notoriously difficult to win at because of the erratic nature of their play but there is one game that is quite different. It offers the player a real opportunity to win consistently using skill and insight.

**It is the electronic form of a popular card game known as 'Blackjack'.**

Where Blackjack differs from most other casino games is that whilst a degree of luck is involved it does rely upon a player's skill to execute the correct play. This means that you can change, or increase, your winning potential whilst a game is taking place. I'll explain more about this later on but basically it means that with the application of correct playing and betting strategies you have an excellent opportunity to leave a casino having made some money - in fact a lot of money.

### **About this Manual**

My interest and fascination with Blackjack began many years ago when I was a teenager. In those days few of us could afford a decent deck of cards never mind raise the cash to gamble – nevertheless with a box of spent matchsticks to use as chips we spent hour after hour in pure bliss. Little did I imagine that years later I would actually earn a regular income from the game whilst sat at a computer!

**It has enabled me to develop a lifestyle that would have been impossible to create any other way – and I want to show you the way to achieve this for yourself.**

In this manual I will teach you the game, the best places to play, the optimum decisions and choices to make. I'll reveal the correct strategy for maximizing your winning potential in any given situation and then take you through the very same process that I use week in - week out to generate a regular income for myself - all from the comfort of my own home and in my own time.

**So with no more delay let me start you off on the road to Professional Casino Blackjack.**

William Goulden

March 2005

— <> —

---

# 1 - How to Play Blackjack

---

***“A dollar picked up in the road is more satisfaction to us than the 99 which we had to work for, and the money won at Faro or in the stock market snuggles into our hearts in the same way.” - Mark Twain***

Blackjack originally emerged in French casino houses around 1700 when it was called by its more common name of “vingt-et-un” or twenty-and-one. The game rapidly spread in popularity throughout Europe and was introduced at American casinos in the 1800's where it quickly proved equally popular with visitors.

However despite its popularity with gamblers it has over the years enjoyed a very chequered career with the casinos themselves. It has fallen in and then out of favor time and again with casino bosses who have continually tried to adapt and modify the game's rules to increase the house edge. In response players have come up with equally ingenious playing techniques to offset them - tricks that have included everything from card counting to the use of weird devices hidden in the players hand.

## Online Blackjack

As offline casinos made the transition into hyperspace they brought with them all the traditional games of chance including Roulette, Slots and Craps as well as the regular favorite - Blackjack.

Of all the games available at an online casino Blackjack is different from most on offer because it is practically the only one in which you can dramatically change the odds of winning whilst the game is actually taking place. Talking technically for a moment those games such as Craps and Roulette are termed by mathematicians as 'Independent Trials Processes' - which basically means that one has no control over events once the dice have been cast, the wheel or reels have been spun. Further more the results of any one play will have no knock-on effect upon any subsequent game. This means that it is practically impossible to develop any accurate and reliable playing strategy. You just put down your cash and keep your fingers crossed!

The game of Blackjack is different. It is one of the few examples where the odds in a game are subject to 'Conditional Probabilities'. This means that as the game progresses the chances of you winning a hand vary as it is played out. In addition the outcome of one hand affects subsequent hands (this statement is more true in online casinos where a deck is played through prior to a shuffle than at most online casinos where each hand is cut from a freshly shuffled deck.)

## Playing Blackjack

Blackjack (single or multi-player) is a game that is played against a selected bank and/or the dealer. As a player you have the goal of creating a hand of cards (which can be two or more in number) with an accumulated pip value of 21.

All cards the cards in a deck are credited with their face value except the court cards, which are considered to be worth 10 points each. Aces are treated a little differently and are deemed to be worth either 1 or 11 depending on your playing preference. If, through bad-luck or poor math, your hand total adds up to greater than 21 you are deemed to have 'Bust' and so you lose the hand and your initial bet is forfeited.

**The game is literally as simple as that - at least the basics of playing are!**

After you have received your first two cards you just keep on asking the dealer for another card until such

time that you decide you either obtain the magic 21 pip total or are as close to it as you think are going to get. At this point you 'Stand'.

Then the dealer peels off one card after another onto his pile until he reaches 17 when he has either beaten you or has gone 'Bust'. If at this stage his total is the same as the players a stalemate arises and both hands are forfeited. This is called a 'Push' and the bet is returned to the player.

Now that you know the basics let's take a look at a very simple game.

### **Game Example 1**

Every hand of Blackjack starts with the player offering his or her bet. Lets make this \$2.00 for the sake of argument (typically most online Casinos play in US Dollars but don't let this put you off if you live outside America - I'll explain about currencies later on). For this bet the dealer will then place down in front of you your first card (face up), then deal them one card (also face up). He or she will then deal you, the player, a second card (also face up) and then finally themselves a second card (face down this time).

You are now looking at four cards on the table - three faced up and one faced down.

Now the player will count the pip values of their two cards. Say they had a 2 and an 8 they would have a pip total of 10 - a long way from the targeted 21 but as we shall see a good hand nevertheless. At this point the player has two options. The first is to decide whether to 'Twist' - to ask for a third card and hope that they will get nearer the 21 total, or to 'Stick' - refuse the offer of any more cards for that particular round.

In this case the total of 10 is pretty low and one would normally ask for a second card. Remember the highest value card that you can have is 11 (Ace) so the player cannot bust at this point.

So the dealer hands over a third card to the player. In this particular game it turns out to be a King that means that the player's hand totals 20. Most sensible players would hold at this point - the odds of an Ace (in its role as a value 1) coming up next are just too remote to make the risk acceptable. So the player suspends his play at this point and allows the dealers to respond.

The dealers' job now is to reach that magical 21 value themselves. However the job is made considerably difficult because they have to beat the player's 20. Thus only a total of 21 will do to win the game. A hand of value 19 or less will mean a loss whilst 20 will at least nullify the hand and result in a draw.

So off they go. The dealers exposed card is a 6, they then reveal that a second facedown card as an 8 which leaves them a total of 14. Obviously a third card is needed so they turn one over. This is a 2, which brings the total to 16 - still not enough so they try for a fourth card. This happens to be a 10 and the dealer is 'Bust' with the mammoth total of 26. The player wins the hand, has his or her original \$2 bet returned to them along with the same amount again making \$4 in total! Most winnings are paid on a 2:1 ratio - though there are a few exceptions, as we shall see later on.

**So that is it - simplicity itself!**

### **Game Example 2**

Lets take a look at second game. In the first instance the player has a King (which is value 10 remember) and a 7. The suit type is of no consequence in Blackjack. This total of 17 is high enough for the player to 'Stand'. However the dealer also has a court card - namely a Knave and on exposure of his second we see that it is a 10. Thus his total of 20 is higher than the players of 17 so he takes the bet and closes the hand.

### **Game Example 3**

There is one two-card combination that radically changes the results of any game. This is referred to as a 'Blackjack' and consists of the combination of any ten or court card and an Ace. Together they add up to 21.

When a player gets a 'Blackjack' he or she will automatically win the hand and likewise when the dealer gets this combination they win the hand. The fun part is that a BJ pays out higher odds to a player of 3:2 rather than the more normal 2:1.

## Game Example 4

Occasionally you find in an initial deal that you are handed a pair - that is to say two cards of the same value (e.g., two 2s, two 5s, two Aces etc.). How you treat these depends very much on several playing factors. However in many cases you will decide that the best response is to 'Split' in which you take each card and use it to create two new hands. At the same time the software will automatically double your initial bet so you are risking a higher wager.

**This can be an important consideration when deciding whether to split or not.**

Let's create an example to illustrate my point. The dealer has dealt you two 8s and you decide to split them. You now have two completely new hands on the table in front of you - each with an 8 to start from. The dealer will then deal another card face up onto one 8 and then a second card onto the second 8.

Now this is where things get a little complex. There seems to be no set rules on how the casino software will respond. Having placed a second card on top of each of your two split cards some will automatically complete your game at this stage and move onto the dealers move. Some casinos only do this on split Aces. Some casinos allow you the regular 'Hit or Stand' options and some even allow you to split for a second time (thereby creating three hands of cards). You will just have to play the casino for a little while in order to get to grips with its subtleties.

It's now the dealers turn. They complete their hands as usual but the total that they reach is compared against each of your split pairs individually. This means that you can either lose both your hands to a higher total, win one and lose one or win them both. It's a risking business splitting pairs as you can see so only certain pairings are recommended for splitting.

## A Summary

In those four game examples you have now experienced the very basics to playing Blackjack. The game rules governing certain aspects of play can differ from one online casino to another (as indeed they do at offline casinos). Indeed they can also vary from one continent to another with European Blackjack being quite different to the typical game found at US casinos. When playing Blackjack online it is crucial to find the best odds (more on that later). Some good sites are suggested in the Appendix.

.

In the next chapter we'll take a look at what you need to get started in a Blackjack career.



---

## 2 - The Tools You Need to Get Started

---

*A blackjack dealer and a player with a thirteen count in his hand were arguing about whether or not it was appropriate to tip the dealer. The player said, "When I get bad cards, it's not the dealer's fault. Accordingly, when I get good cards, the dealer obviously had nothing to do with it so, why should I tip him?"*

*The dealer said, "When you eat out do you tip the waiter?" ... "Yes." "Well then, he serves you food; I'm serving you cards, so you should tip me." "Okay, but, the waiter gives me what I ask for. I'll take an eight!"*

We shall take a look at the different playing skills that are needed later on but for the moment I want to concentrate upon setting up with the physical equipment to get started. To this end the following is a list of the practical tools that you will need. In most cases you should find that you already own, or have access to, most of the items so that little or no extra expense will be needed.

### 1) A Computer

First of all - and most obviously, you will need a computer. It does not have to be the latest state of the art PC - a normal Pentium PC will do with any average (color) monitor. The machine does not have to be fast as the casino server does most of the number-crunching work.

You will need a fairly decent sized hard disk in the machine though - one that has a useful amount of free space (30Gb+). This will be needed in order to install an average of about 20 different casinos software, which you will come to play on a regular basis in time. Even a small number of casinos take up a great amount of space - especially if you download versions of the casino's software that has more than just the standard Blackjack options.

### 2) Internet Connection

It also stands to reason that you will also need an Internet connection. This is so that you are in continual connection with the casino's server throughout a game. Your method of dial-up does not have to be a super fast Broadband/ADSL connection, as any normal 56K modem will suffice.

I do recommend that you sign up to an ISP that allows you prolonged periods of connection time for a small monthly payment. If you play the casinos regularly you are likely to spend extended periods on the Internet - you do not want your profits eaten up with large connection charges!

### 3) Credit Card or Debit Card

A Credit Card is also pretty indispensable - in fact in the early days it was the only way that you could be assured of getting a game. However today you can get by without one but as casinos utilize the services of credit card merchants (Visa/MasterCard etc.) to verify your age and later on your identity and personal details for payouts it will make your life much easier with one.

Don't worry if you do not have a credit card - or are worried about using one on the Internet. In addition to



accepting credit cards all casino sites accept direct payments via Debit Cards (UK and US), Bank Transfers and many other methods. Others even allow cash deposits via EvoCash or Western Union. There is a huge range of payment options on offer so there is no reason why you should be left out.

Most credit card companies are increasingly developing an anti-casino policy lately. Some will even refuse payments made through their credit system to any sort of betting sites. The reasons for this are obscure - though any credit card company if questioned about their policy will probably mumble something about security. I suspect that the real reason for their lack of support is due to the administration of charge backs as casinos return winnings to their players.

To get around all of these problems all casinos use third-party payment gateways for both depositing and withdrawing cash from their casinos. There is no extra charge to you using their services - but there are a whole raft of advantages - which we will explore later on.

#### **4) Decent Email Address**

What on earth is a decent email address I hear you say! Well, all Internet casinos are very security conscious. Often their over-enthusiasm to protect themselves from fraud can be a little inconvenient at times. This is one of them for some casinos will object to members who sign up with them using email addresses such as Hotmail, MSN, Yahoo etc. due to their temporary and rather transitory nature.

A primary problem presented to the casinos by such accounts is their extremely strict anti-spamming (unsolicited email) filters, which would easily remove any emails containing wording typically used by casino promotional material (e.g. free, casino etc.)

Therefore to avoid any problems later on it is worth starting off with a good address such as mail@properdomainname.com. If you intend upon becoming a serious or professional casino gambler then I recommend that you start out by purchasing your own domain name e.g. something like www.yoursurname.com. These can be obtained in a variety of suffix types. Name and are very cheap just now. In addition the supplier of your domain name will offer you a control panel, which will enable you to set up multiple mailboxes without having to pay to have your domain hosted. I always use this method and have my emails diverted to my current ISP's mail account. This way if I change ISPs I can still hold onto the mail original mail account.

#### **5) Software**

The casino will supply you with all the playing software that you need. This is easily downloaded from their website either as a total package (which tends to be a huge file) or in single game options. Thankfully Blackjack is generally included in the smaller versions which in most cases is around 5-6Mb and takes approximately 20-30 minutes to download depending upon your connection speed. Once it is installed on your computer you do not have to worry about having the latest release or version to play with as the software as this is updated automatically by the casino when you first log on.

The only other extra piece of software that I do recommend is a good program to keep track of the results of your games. I personally use Microsoft's Excel and throughout this manual I will offer you the opportunity to download various Excel templates free of charge from my website to help you.

Why are spreadsheets necessary? Well, I want you to treat your casino playing exactly as you would if you were running any sort of business. You need to keep records in order to evaluate your progress and success over the coming weeks and months. In addition there are certain playing strategies that we will reveal later on that make keeping a record of your wins imperative. Failing to do this will cost you dearly in financial terms - and nobody wants their hard earned winnings returned to the house because they failed to keep adequate track of their play.

#### **6) Personal Characteristics**

Those are most of the practical requirements taken care of but there are a few essential personal criteria to be fulfilled.

**Tip: Do not start playing the casinos if you are broke, of a nervous disposition or just plainly bored! These are all recipes for automatic disaster.**

A strong and stable emotional nature is essential as a Blackjack player for there will inevitably be spells during your playing career in which everything that you do seems to end in failure (though we can minimize these periods considerably). A cool head is essential in order to see yourself through these times.

Also stay well away from gambling if you harbor a compulsive nature. The successful professional Blackjack player will come to learn that there are times to play - and times not to play, for the good of their wallet.

**You need to have a degree of self-awareness to keep control on what is after all a very seductive activity!**

### **The Process of Playing**

And there we are - that's about all your basic needs catered for. To get an immediate idea of how the tools are used the following is a typical sequence of play from installation to winnings collection.

#### **Stage 1) Select a suitable casino**

Either choose one recommended by myself one or select one from a search engine or online directory.

#### **Stage 2) Sign up at the Casino Web Site**

Once you have visited the casino's web site look for the 'Download' - it will be somewhere on the front page. Supply the casino with your email address (so they can email you later on with their promotions etc) and then follow the online instructions on how to download the casino software onto your PC.

#### **Stage 3) Install software on your machine**

Sometime the software that you have downloaded automatically installs itself for you. On other occasions you will be prompted to supply your choice of installation location and other user-friendly options.

#### **Stage 4) Register your account**

The next stage is to open your Internet connection and start up the Blackjack software on your PC. Once it loads you will be offered the option of signing up in either Guest Mode (where you play with casino credits) or in Real Mode (playing with your own Dollars/Pounds/Euros). I recommend that you select Guest Mode first of all in order to get an idea of their Blackjack game at no cost.

#### **Stage 5) Sign up in Real Mode**

Then when you feel confident with the casino sign up for a real account, deposit some money and play the game.

#### **Stage 6) Withdraw winnings**

When ever you feel that you have won enough money then cash in. Whilst crediting your account with money is immediate you will have to wait a few days before you receive your winnings.

And that is basically how it all works. Between stages there will be lots of fun, a little sweat and probably even a few cups of nerve-calming coffee but I leave the appropriate amounts up to your own personal preference!

— <> —

---

## 3 - Playing Blackjack At Online Casinos

---

*“When a gambler picks up a pack of cards or a pair of dice, he feels as though he has reduced an unmanageable world to a finite, visible and comprehensive size.” Source: Annabel Davis-Goff, The Literary Companion to Gambling*

The actual experience of playing online casinos is quite different from that of playing at their land based equivalents. The first, and most notable difference is that the Internet playing environment does not have the hectic and vibrant atmosphere of the offline casinos (though the software does try to recreate this to a degree with added music and audience applause). This difference can be an asset, or liability, depending upon your own playing preferences for whilst you are less likely to be disturbed by other players, free alcoholic drinks or any other of the usual casino perks to be had the general excitement and playing adrenaline is not to be enjoyed.

However as a serious gambling investor you may well prefer the lack of distractions as a chance to concentrate more fully upon your game. I certainly do. To start with you will need an un-pressurized environment to get to learn the system and to make un-rushed playing decisions.

### Where to Play?

When you first take a look at the hugely diverse range of casinos available on the Internet today it is apparent that the first major obstacle is in deciding which is the right one to play. There are so many to choose from - not all of which are quite as kosher as the next!

A good way to find out what is available is to check out a casino directory site. There are many of them on the Internet and a quick submission to any popular search engine should reveal a whole list to get started with. You could begin at <http://www.playhard.co.uk>, which not only lists popular casino sites but also includes those with the best bonuses and payouts.

In nearly every case these directories will have already evaluated a number of casinos. They will also have a great deal of feedback from their subscribers regarding their selections and so be uniquely placed to recommend those that they judge to be the best and most reliable.

By all means take a good look around at what casinos are on offer, however as I want you to get your playing career off to a good start I would initially recommend that you stick to the casinos that I personally recommend to you to begin with. These can be found in chapter 9 and have been found to be the best to use with the Goldhill Playing System. (I will also email you at regular intervals with other casinos that I feel to offer good playing opportunities).

Lets now take a deeper look at the online casinos and what they are about.

**Tip: For more casino directory links visit Chapter 10 of this manual**

### More About Online Casinos

There are two main types of Blackjack games. The first is the Flash-based, on-site version which requires

no downloads or installation to play. Quite frankly this type of game is not much thought of by serious Blackjack players.

The second type probably accounts for 98% of all Blackjack played and runs partly on your machine and partly on the casino's server. In this manual I shall concentrate entirely upon this type of game, which are run by what are called 'Software Engines'. Don't worry too much about the term - it just means that behind the scenes there is some software that does all the calculating and number crunching work.

## **Software Engines**

There are a half dozen or so popular software engines used at Internet casinos. At the moment Micro-Gaming provides the most popular type of software but other major software development companies include Real-Time Gaming, Boss Media and Cryptologic.

Whilst they all generate completely fair games they all generate their own particular style of casino experience. It is very worthwhile to get to know them all and their little idiosyncrasies, playing operations and desktop layout.

## **Software Honesty**

The first concern that most people have about playing any sort of software-based gambling game is the fairness of the software. After all it would be very easy for a clever computer programmer to create a program that could win consistently and you might never suspect it was a crooked game.

On the question of honesty I have only ever been suspicious of a casinos' software once and that was whilst trying out one of the lesser-known sites that was using it's own software and of a type not referred to in this manual.

**Other than that I have always been happy with the fairness of every casino's software.**

For a casino to use 'bent' software would be pointless - after all millions of people are queuing up to throw their hard-earned cash at them as it is - why jeopardize that by running the risk of getting a bad name for running a biased game. Further more any game with built-in bias would have a system and as the history of Blackjack shows somebody, somewhere always bends a system to their own ends. Once news of this got out onto the Internet the casino would end up bankrupt.

**Fact: The software that drives online casinos are based upon a number crunching mechanism known as a 'Random Number Generator' - which really does all that it's name describes. This is based upon a 'root' or 'seed' value that is changed according to purely spurious criteria.**

In case you feel at all uneasy (and you have to accept that there will be times when the computer just seems to pre-empt your every move) most of the casino engines have been audited by independent assessors who monitor the results of millions of hands for any sort of bias or response patterns. As far as I know no software has yet to be revealed as crooked and so I believe that you can play any of the big casinos with complete confidence. Most operators including Microgaming and Boss have their random-number generator verified annually by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, which gives you a high degree of surety and fairness.

That being said the actual implementation of that software is a different matter though. I often come across casinos that have tweaked or adjusted the software to such a point that from a professional gambler's point of view they are simply just not worth playing. Typically this includes rules as limited options on doubling down, splitting of aces and the revealing of dealer's Blackjacks.

## **Casino Payment Systems**

The actual depositing and withdrawal of money from online casinos is a mystical science unto itself. I'll try and clarify it as best I can here.

Basically a casino needs to get hold of a money deposit from you before you can start playing for real at their games. To fund your playing pot you could send them cash, a personal check, arrange a bank transfer but all these methods have their drawbacks. As an alternative all casinos prefer fast electronic payments and the

now firmly established MasterCard/Visa credit-card system is perfect for this. All you have to do is sign up with a casino, get a credit card registered with them, arrange for a transfer of funds and await the money to be credited to your account so that you can play. This is usually done immediately or within a couple of hours of registering.

This approach sounds OK in theory but there can be problems associated with it. Firstly your credit card provider may block payments to an online casino, you may have to wait a while before you can play your game or you may have problems withdrawing by this method unless you can provide documentary evidence that you are the cardholder - and so it goes on. So much for instant cash transfers!

Fortunately there is a much more satisfactory process of initially funding your casino account and that is by using a third party payment processor. Here is a list of the most common ones that are endorsed by the majority of online casinos. I have included their URLs at the end of this manual.

- ACH
- Neteller
- PaySpark
- Citadel
- Western Union

Each of these third-party processors work in different ways and the funding options that they offer varies according to your country of origin. As you get to know how all of these systems work you will soon work out the best way to get money into, and out of, your accounts

**Tip: I recommend that you sign up with Neteller at <https://www.neteller.com/> to begin with. This is the most universally accepted method of payments at casinos whilst offering the best range of funding and currency options. It also has it's own ATM Debit card. This is invaluable for it means that you can get your winnings out of any one of many thousands of cash machines found anywhere in the world.**

## A Summary

And that is basically a run down of what you can expect to experience with online casinos. Space limits me from going to deeply into some of the technical aspects to them but so long as you stick to the 'famous names' casinos you can be assured a safe and painless game.

As well as email support most casinos offer good telephone 24/7 support so if you have any problems at all just contact the help line. The friendliness or helpfulness of the call center reveals a great deal about the nature of the casino itself and how keen it is on paying out!

Now let us move on to the free money that all online casinos offer as an inducement to join them.

— <> —

---

## 4 - Winning With Casino Money

---

***“When we put 50 machines in, I consider them 50 more mousetraps. You have to have a mousetrap to catch a mouse.” - Bob Stupak, former Las Vegas casino owner***

The Internet is literally awash with golden opportunities for as the number of online casinos increase so does the competition to find and keep customers. This has meant bigger and more attractive offers are available to players both to try out a casino and then to remain loyal to it.

So with all this going on how do casinos win the battle for customers? How are they able to attract the attention of curious visitor and then make sure that he/she remains a regular player?

### **Sprats to Catch Mackerel**

There are several different types of offers that casinos use to attract custom. These vary in size from one casino to another but the basic ones are;

- Free No-Obligation Deposit,
- Welcome Bonus
- Payment Bonus
- Recurring Bonus.
- Periodical Bonuses
- Rewards Schemes

They can be a little complicated to understand so let us now take a closer look at these incentives and how they work.

### **1 - The Free No-Obligation Deposit**

Many good online casinos offers a new player a no-obligation deposit. This is a free deposit made to your account when you first sign up. You generally don't even have to make an initial deposit yourself.

The amount on offer varies from one casino to another but usually they are somewhere between \$10 and \$25. This is enough to guarantee a few games and to get you to experience the thrills and spills of online gambling. An example of a good casino offering a no-deposit bonus is [www.mummysgold.com](http://www.mummysgold.com).

**Note: It would seem tempting just to go around signing up to casinos, taking their free deposits and moving on. Of course, it does not work like this. Instead there are terms and conditions attached to any payout. Sometimes these relate to the amount of play you have to give before cashing in whilst many casino now limit the amount of winnings that you withdraw. However these restrictions do not limit us unduly.**

The free bonus incentive gives anyone a great opportunity to get started with no money whatsoever! Using the offer you can begin to build a sizeable betting pot through three strategies.

**Option 1:** Take the whole of your free bonus and put it down as one bet on the first hand of Blackjack. Remember on your first visit to the table you will have an almost equal 50/50 chance of winning - which are pretty favorable odds. Later on you will learn how to increase that 50% chance dramatically by introducing you to the best play for any given situation.



**Option 2:** A slight modification on this all-or-nothing approach is to split your bonus into two or even three parts. This reduces the chances of crashing out on game one and gives you a little room for maneuver should you find a hand winning opportunity that you want to double up on.

**Option 3:** This method takes a little more time, effort and patience but will invariably bring you the right result.

- First of all search out a casino with a good introductory bonus but which also offers a low minimum bet amount. This ought to be 50c and \$1. (Two of the best I could find at the time of writing were [www.piggspeak.com](http://www.piggspeak.com) and [www.captaincookscasino.com](http://www.captaincookscasino.com))
- Now play a very careful game using only the minimum betting stakes and avoiding any risky moves. Your bonus payment should give you somewhere between 20 and 40 hands of Blackjack depending upon your playing style and gradually you should be able to build this up to a decent pot.

I do recommend that when you reach a level of about three times your free bonus that you check that you have fulfilled your playing requirements and then cash in. Do not risk your winnings - just take them and cash-in. With your winnings you can then move on to take advantage of any casino's second sign-up incentive - that being the Welcome Bonus!

**Tip: If you lose your initial opening free bonus then just move onto another casino. You will find a list of Casino Free Bonuses directories in Appendix 2 of this manual. It is also worth signing up for a newsletter service such as the Mayer Club, so you are updated when offers become available.**

## 2 - Welcome Bonus

Once you have established your account at a casino and are ready for your first serious game then always look for the casino's 'Welcome Bonus'. This is an amount offered by the casino to compliment your first deposit. Usually it is given in percentage terms and usually amounts to 1, 2 or 3 times your deposit. This means that with even a small initial deposit, and it could be your winnings from the Free No-Obligation Bonus, you can create a decent playing purse.

However like the earlier bonus system that we looked at there are advantages and disadvantages to playing with this incentive.

### Advantages

The major plus to using a welcome bonus is that you are effectively playing with the casino's money as a way of safeguarding your own. For example, imagine that you deposit \$100 and then receive another \$100 as a bonus. You can play with a stop-loss system of \$100, which means that you will not come out of the game as a loser. You are in effect playing with safe money.

There is a strategy amongst some Blackjack players to visit a casino, make use of the free money and then move on. This means that even if you lose 20% of the hands (which is very unlikely) you will still emerge with a profit of 80\$ ... and your deposit intact! You only need visit a few before you have generated a very sizeable financial advantage!

However I should warn you that some casinos are getting wise to these players and are blacklisting them. Personally I do not use the Welcome Bonus very often but for another completely different reason - namely, the play-through limitations, which brings me to the disadvantages of this system.

### Disadvantages

Payout on winnings made using a casino's Welcome Bonus are dependent upon the player fulfilling a complex set of terms and conditions. These are usually revealed in either the General Playing Terms and Conditions or the Introductory Bonus Terms and Conditions. A link to these is usually included on the casinos home page.

Now these Bonus Conditions usually require some skill to interpret. Typically they reveal the games that you can and cannot play using the bonus (thankfully Blackjack is usually included in their list of acceptable games) and the amount of play (measured in \$) that you are required to play before you can cash-in. This play-through amount can be between 7 and 30 times the deposit plus bonus. This means that if you deposit \$40, then receive another \$40 in bonuses at 10 times play-through you have to wager \$800 in bets.

As I mentioned earlier I do not like the limitations that the Welcome Bonus places upon a game. I find it cramps my playing decisions and restricts my choice of when to judge the optimum time to cash-in. However if you are prepared to see a game through many hands with the risk of total failure then even a complete novice can win a decent amount of money if he/she chooses the right casino and playing tactics. The best joining bonuses tend to be at the best-known casinos, such as [www.888.com](http://www.888.com) or [www.casinocraze.com](http://www.casinocraze.com)

### **3 - Payment Bonus**

Really good bonuses that many casinos offer are 'Payment Bonuses'. This generally amounts to some 10 - 15% extra for all deposits that are made with specific third-party processors. If you take the advice that I offered earlier then you would undoubtedly be using one of these anyway. This is a decent offer and one that is particularly attractive if you are depositing several hundred dollars at a time.

### **4 - Recurring Bonus**

Although much smaller than the Welcome Bonus, the Monthly, or recurring bonus, is sometimes a much more attractive offer. In many regards it is a cross between the Free and Welcome Bonuses - it is a set amount (perhaps \$30 - \$40) with a low play through that the casino offers you - usually on a monthly basis. UK-based players are the lucky ones here as they have access to Intercasino, who kindly top up your account with £50 each and every month. Lets hope they soon accept US players!

### **5 - Periodical Bonus**

Once you have joined a casino they will email you regularly with time-limited bonuses. Some of these can be pretty spectacular amounting to as much as the first-time bonus itself.

Some Casinos are now starting to offer their regular players guaranteed cash back on their lost deposits. It really is a player's playing field out there!

### **6 - Reward Schemes**

Quite often a casino will offer a player a wide range of other rewards programs. The most useful is the points system in which you are credited with a number of points per \$ deposited. The player can generally convert these back to Dollars.

Whilst this type of bonuses are not worth playing a specific casino for they can add a little added bonus to the serious Blackjack player who wagers large amounts over a period of time.

There are others such as Rewards Incentives and bonuses for VIP players but these only become available after you have been playing at the casino for a while.

### **And So...**

That brings us to the end of this chapter and of looking the various casino payment and incentive systems. With a little imagination you can see how with careful use of them they can add significantly to your overall profits.

In the next chapter I want to take a look at the actual playing strategy that will strip the house-edge down to virtually nothing.

— <> —



---

## 5 - A Perfect Blackjack Strategy

---

***“Son, we are sorry about the tuition funds...your mother and I did not know you are not supposed to split tens...” - Letters home from people visiting Reno.***

In my introduction to this manual I referred to the part-time casino player who only plays for the thrill and excitement of the play. As daft as it might have sounded to you there are players who have little or no concept of the idea of playing Blackjack at online casinos as a sound financial proposition.

Just for a laugh go along to Littlewoods Casino (<http://www.littlewoodscasino.com/>) and download their software. Later on I recommend this site as a good one to play at for a number of reasons however at the moment I would suggest that you join up in Guest Mode and go to one of their Public tables. Here you can play Blackjack against other players.

Now just by spend a few minutes watching the playing strategies of your fellow Blackjackers - if strategy is indeed the correct word, for doing so leads one to the inevitable conclusion that most people just do not have the slightest clue what they are doing. From both their play and betting decisions it is clear that they still regard Blackjack merely as a game of chance in the same mould as Roulette, Slots and Craps.

**All of their decisions are wild and clearly based upon hope that the flow of play will eventually go their way and land them a win - which it rarely ever does!**

After a while you can see them log out and presumably wander off to slap down some more money at another game. This hit and miss approach characterizes the activities of 95% of all amateur casino gamblers and their foolish actions keep the casinos (and ourselves) in business.

### **Rookies vs. The Pros**

I want to show you where they (and possibly also yourself) can go wrong. Imagine, if you will, the following scenario - a game played between an amateur and a professional.

Our game has started and the ‘fool’ or ‘Rookie’ has placed down his/her bet - probably at a value that reflects his level of personal optimism at the time. They then consider their cards for a moment.

Player one finds that he has been dealt a King and a 4. This will give him a pip value of 14, which of course is not a large total and a long way off his 21 target - so he selects to ‘Hit’. His third card is an eight and he has bust out causing him to lose his bet deposit. Undeterred by this he then selects a new deal and then goes on to repeat all of his subsequent playing hands using the same hit or bust strategy.

Now take a look at the same situation, as a professional would play it. Firstly he or she will place a bet at a value that is right for the present state of play. Once again the two cards dealt up are a King and a 4 but this time the player takes a quick glance at the dealer’s upturned card which is a 6 - so he/she decides to stick. This forces the initiative onto the dealer so he then cuts a 10 giving 16 and being forced to hit (all dealers have to hit on total less than 17) he then reveals a 9 as his third card giving a total of 25. Player wins!

**I have lost count of the number of times that playing these sorts of hands have given me a playing edge in a game.**

### **The Perfect Blackjack Strategy**

So what’s the difference between the two styles of play? Why was a 16 total considered a poor total for the

	Dealer's Hand										
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
Player's Pip Total	5	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
	6	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
	7	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
	8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
	9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
	10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
	11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H
	12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
	13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
	14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
	15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
	16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
	17	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	18	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	19	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	20	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	21	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Table 1

novice player but perfectly adequate for the professional? The answer lies in the laws of probability and in a remarkable system known as 'Perfect Blackjack'.

Whilst it cannot predict the outcome of any initial card pairing with 100% accuracy, it does offer the player a remarkable way to dramatically increase the winning odds. This is how it looks in table form

If you look at Table 1 you will see that the nearest left hand column is marked 'Player' and the values 5 to 21 beneath it are the only totals available with an initial two card deal. The top row is marked 'Dealer' with the numbers 2 through to 10 and the letter A (meaning Ace) on the line below it. These are the only values that the dealer can have with his/her first deal.

To find the most advantageous response to a deal you simply add up the pip total on your first two cards, locate the total under the 'Player' column and then follow it across until you reach the dealer column. The letter at this point reveals the most propitious action to take and the Key reveals the correct response to make.

#### Example 1

In the game that I gave as an example earlier the player had a King and a 4 creating a total of 14. Locate the row that extends out from the number 14 until it reaches the number 6, which if you recall was the value of the first dealer card. Where they meet you will encounter a letter S – which with reference to the Key means 'Stick' – or do nothing.

To many beginners the thought of sticking at 16 would seem a rather daft one. Indeed 9 times out of 10 a player will simply 'Hit' or 'Twist'. This is wrong because the odds of the dealer busting with a 6 are extremely high – in fact higher than they are of your reaching 21 safely.

**Can you see how armed with this simple table you can radically revolutionize your winning strategy? It takes the guesswork out of your playing decisions.**

#### Example 2

	Dealer's Hand										
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
Player's Ace Pairing	A,2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
	A,3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
	A,4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
	A,5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
	A,6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
	A,7	S	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H
	A,8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	A,9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Table 2

Let's take another example of how we use the Strategy. Player has been dealt a 3 and a 4. This totals to 7. According to our Table 1 no matter what the pip value is of the dealers card you should always Hit here. Now the third card is a 5, which brings you to a total of 12. Take a look at the dealer card, in this case it is a 5 and a quick look at the chart reveals that your best option is to stick.

#### Example 3

When Aces appear in a hand they add considerably to the options available to you as a player. They also require a different table of actions.

Imagine that you have been dealt an Ace along

with a 5. In this instance the dealer has a 6. To determine the correct play for this situation refer to Table 2 on the left this time.

Player's Pairs  Table 3	Dealer's Hand										
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
	2,2	H	H	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
	3,3	H	H	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
	4,4	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
	5,5	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
	6,6	H	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H	H
	7,7	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
	8,8	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	9,9	P	P	P	P	P	S	P	P	S	S
	10,10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Locate the A, 5 pairing then check across to the player's 6 column and you will see that the best course of action in this example is to double.

Tip. It may be that in instances where you Hit a third card does not increase your playing edge sufficiently to Stand. If this is the case then total up your card pip values and refer back to Table 1 for the correct playing decisions.

#### Example 4

Pairs occur in perhaps one in every 25 hands of Blackjack that you play. When they do they certainly make life interesting!

In this game example you have been dealt a pair of 5s against a dealer's 8. Take a look at the third table (left) and you will see that the recommendation is to Double.

You may also notice that whilst the recommendations for various Ace combinations varies according to the dealer card the optimum action for a pair of Aces is to always split them whilst the best approach for a pair of 10s is to stand. (Some players argue against this and insist that a pair of tens should always be split. Don't believe them!)

Tip: It is always worth checking out what a particular casinos procedure is on dealing with pairs. Whilst all games allow you to split your pair there are many differences in how you can progress from there on. Some casinos allow you to split any subsequent pairs again, some allow you just the standard set of options whilst some allow you no options at all. You are merely automatically dealt one more card for each of yoursplit pair and that is your lot!

### A Summary

That, very simply, is the Perfect Blackjack System and how to apply it in the most common situations. As a professional player you will rely upon it time and again towards making the correct playing decisions.

Now that we have revealed the best playing strategy let us now take a look at the different betting strategies on offer.

— <> —

---

## 6 - Example Betting Systems

---

*“At that point I ought to have gone away, but a strange sensation rose up in me, a sort of defiance of fate, a desire to challenge it, to put out my tongue at it. I laid down the largest stake allowed-four thousand gulden-and lost it. Then, getting hot, I pulled out all I had left, staked it on the same number, and lost again, after which I walked away from the table as though I were stunned. I could not even grasp what had happened to me.” - Fyodor Dostoevsky, The Gambler*

Successful play at Blackjack is dependent upon you developing two key strategies. We looked at the first one, the playing strategy, in the last chapter. Now we come to the second - the betting strategy.

No fortune has been won or lost quicker than by someone using a betting strategy or system! They are a double-edged sword for when they work they can be brilliant - when they fail the results can be disastrous!

The mistake that most people make when it comes to using them, and this covers all types of gambler, is to assume that there is one betting strategy that will guarantee a player a winning game time after time. **This is not the case for different approaches to the game are required at different levels of play.**

### Betting Systems

In order to become successful you are going to need to develop several betting strategies and to learn how to apply the correct one at the right time. Whilst the Perfect Blackjack Playing Strategy generally covers all playing situations this is not the case with Betting Strategies. Some games and playing conditions require one style of strategy whilst another might call for another quite different approach.

In time you will intuitively know which approach is the best one but for the moment you will have to make a valued judgment as to the method that suits you best. Here are a few of the more popular betting systems that have been used by players over the years.

### The Martingale System

This Martingale Method (named after the creator of the same name) was invented some 200 years ago. In a sense it is a damage limitation exercise in that it protects any wins - but at a great risk.

It is simple to apply. Each time that you lose a hand you then double your bet for the next one until such time that you win a hand. Then you return to your initial bet level.

For example, with an opening bet of \$5.00 and doubling on each loss you would then bet \$10 next time and \$20 the next. Thus you will follow the pattern \$5, \$10, \$20, \$40, \$80, \$160 etc. If you have a win at any point you then return to your basic \$5.00 wagers.

At first glance this seems a good system however it fails in two regards. Firstly casinos place a betting limit - a maximum amount that you are allowed to wager. Whilst it is set at several hundred dollars it would not seem very restrictive however using the Martingale System it would not take very long to reach that limit and you run the risk of losing a very substantial amount of money indeed after a prolonged losing streak. The second problem with this system is that you need a sizeable bankroll to start with. For these reasons the Martingale System is not recommended for general play unless you are playing a 'stable' game - i.e. one with few fluctuations.

## **Reverse Martingale System**

This system is the same as the Martingale above but reversed - which means that as a player you increase your bet value after a win and not after a loss. This is based upon the assumption that winning streaks will bring you profits even if you lose a greater number of hands than the casino.

## **Progressive Betting System - 2 Levels**

This is a slightly less-risky system than the Martingale. It is based around a player deciding upon a maximum and minimum betting level. After a losing hand the lower amount is bet and after a win a larger amount is placed.

For example, with a minimum bet level set at \$5 and with a determined upper limit set at \$15, you would start playing with a \$5 dollar bet. If you win that hand then bet \$15 for the next hand. You would then continue to bet \$15 until you lose. After any loss you then return to your minimum bet level of \$5.

This seems simple and straightforward but I do not use it for to me. It works on the assumption that the outcome of one hand pre-determines the probable outcome of another. This is not so for the opposite is the case. The chances of winning a hand just because you won a previous one are diminished and not increased - which makes the system a little unreliable to my mind.

## **Progressive Betting System - 5 Levels**

This system is based on a 1-2-3-5 back to 1 progression. For example, with a basic \$5 bet the player's betting levels would be then be \$5, 10, 15, and 25. Starting with a \$5 bet you then progress to the next level (\$10) when you win a hand. If you lose it then you return to an original \$5 wager. If you are fortunate to win four hands in a row then you should return to your original \$5 wager.

## **1-3-2-6 Betting Progression**

This is an attractive system for the reason that you risk only two betting units for a chance to win ten units. This is how it works.

- Your initial bet is one unit (we will assume that it is \$1 for simplicity sake).
- If you win you then make the second bet a total of three units.
- If you win this second bet you will have six units (unless you are lucky enough to get a Blackjack!). Take away four units and use the two that are left for your third bet.
- If you then win again on the third hand then make your fourth bet six units. If you win this hand you will collect twelve units of which 10 are profit.

The success of this system works on the assumption that you have a four hand winning streak - which is not unlikely at all. However if it all goes wrong and you lose the first bet: The loss is one unit.

- If you win the first hand but then go onto to lose the second bet: your net loss is two units.
- If you win the second hand but then lose the third bet, you have a profit of two units.
- If you win all of the first three bets but lose the fourth bet then you will break even.

## **The d'Alembert System**

A French mathematician, Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, invented this system way back in the eighteenth century and this is how it works.

The player begins by betting one unit. Each time that he/she loses they increase this by one unit. Each time that they win they decrease the bet by one unit.

Whilst being similar to the Martingale System it is not quite as dangerous for becoming bankrupted. It does not work at many online casinos though where the betting options move from single to double units.

## **Fibonacci Series**

Leonardo Fibonacci was a 12<sup>th</sup> century mathematician who discovered, and then gave his name to, a specific progression of numbers. Whilst the discovery was pretty unexciting in itself it has been re-assessed over the past couple of centuries as perhaps holding the key to life – and all cycles of effect upon it.

The Fibonacci Series has been discovered hidden with the growth patterns of everything from plants and animals through to the Stock Market. Many players believe that it has an important place to play in gambling.

Very simply the Fibonacci Progression is merely the development of a series of numbers formulated from the addition of the two previous digits. This therefore gives rise to the sequence;

**1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55 ... and so on!**

Many players have converted this progression into a betting system and are very pleased with its results. This is how you would use it.

- Play your first hand
- If you lose step up one in the progression
- Each time you win repeat the current bet
- If you win again start the progression over again
- If you lose move up one step.

### **The Labouchere Betting System**

The Labouchere system, or 'Cancellation' system, comes in several variations. However this is its simplest form

- Write down a series of numbers, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. The progression can be of any length and does not have to be sequential.
- Each number represents the amount in units or chips to bet and the idea is to bet the first and last of these numbers. In the example above, that would be 1 and 6, totaling 7 units.
- When you win cross off those two numbers and bet the next two outside numbers. In our example the values 2 and 5.
- If you win again you bet on the next two remaining numbers 3 and 4 and if you win that as well you would have made a 'coup' or completed one game.
- Restart the system.
- If you lose, add that one number to the end of the series. For example, if you lost your first bet of 7 units (1+6) then add number 7 to the end of the series to look like this: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and your next bet would equal 8 units (1+7). If you won the first bet but lost the second 2 and 5, then the series of numbers would look like this: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7.
- Thus when the series is completed or when you make a 'coup', there is always a profit.

The negative side of this system is that you could end up betting large sums of money even if your initial bet is small.

### **The Best Betting System**

So which is the best betting system? Well, as dumb as it sounds the best system is the one that works for you. Whilst that sounds a little trite and unhelpful as a statement is in fact quite true. I shall explain a little about this in subsequent publications but to put it briefly we each have a different 'resonance' as a player. You have to find out what your own is (at any particular time) and develop a betting system around it.

Personally I have severe misgivings about all of these betting systems on their own and therefore cannot recommend any of them under all laying conditions. The main reason that most of these fail is because the laws of luck and chance are not determined by pure mathematics - if they were then there would be some very rich mathematicians languishing about on their private yachts right now.

That being said there is a way of playing successful Blackjack that does not depend solely upon betting systems and mathematical criteria. It is in fact based upon an accumulation of all the various playing factors that we have looked at in the manual so far. I call it '**The Goldhill Playing System**' (out of sheer immodesty and lack of imagination!) and an understanding of it forms the basis of the next chapter.

— <> —



## 7 - Death Valley and the Serpents' Tooth

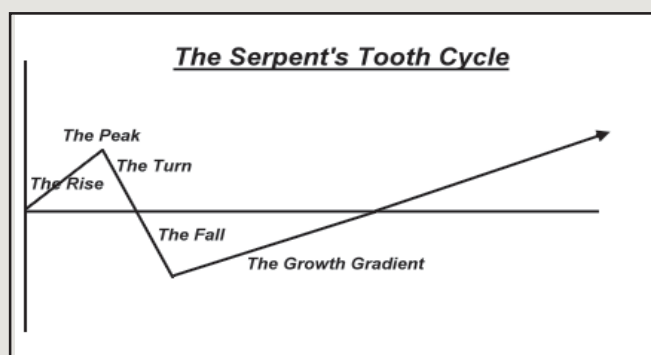
*"All of us have bad luck and good luck. The man who persists through the bad luck — who keeps right on going — is the man who is there when the good luck comes — and is ready to receive it." - Robert Collier*

In this chapter I want to reveal to you the method by which I achieve my success at casino Blackjack but before I do I want to take you back in time to when you were a child.

As a youngster do you remember learning a particular skill or ability - one such as learning to swim or ride a bike? Do you remember the pain and frustration that you went through as you struggled to master the basics and then the seemingly endless effort that you had to make to perfect your art. Tough wasn't it? Do you also remember the times when you wanted to give up?

### **The times when the effort seemed pointless and everything that you did went wrong?**

However finally and after a lot of perseverance and self-discipline quite suddenly everything that you learnt fell into place? You reached a point when you no longer constantly fell off your bicycle or when you finally managed to complete a whole length of the swimming pool. That single glorious day was when all of the hard work and effort suddenly seemed to be worth while, when the struggle of the early stages were forgotten and you sailed effortlessly into a blissful land in which all of your actions were effortless and successful.



### **The Serpent's Tooth Cycle**

If you examine each of the various skills that you learnt throughout life you will discover that the same basic pattern of growth/decay/growth is woven into the development of each one. I can't pretend that I know why this happens – it just does!

On the left is a graphic representation of this unique cycle.

#### **Stage 1 - The Rise**

At first you start off your chosen task with great enthusiasm. This energy quickly propels you into making rapid progress.

This period is called 'The Rise'. (Sometimes it is referred to in card playing as 'Beginner's Luck'). In this part of the cycle everything that you do is a success and you learn at a faster pace than at any other time.

#### **Stage 2 - The Peak**

However this rapid rise in growth does not continue onwards forever for you do reach a zenith in performance. Most of us are only aware of their highest stage of achievement after it has been reached. Thus this stage is referred to as 'The Peak'.

#### **Stage 3 - The Turn**

Then suddenly just as you think you know it all along comes a disaster. You fall from your bike, you fail your exam, you crash the car etc. Something happens to suddenly bring to your attention the fact that you do not know it all! No matter what you try to do you all that you experience is continued frustration, failure and defeat. This called 'The Turn'.

#### **Stage 4 - The Fall**

The rate of decline then appears to accelerate and your enthusiasm for the chosen task falls to its lowest point. It is at this stage that 99% of people give up - probably to move on to try something else. However this decline in fortune does have its limit. Suddenly things change and you start to feel a little more positive about things. This is called 'The Fall'.

#### **Stage 4 - The Growth Gradient**

From the turn you slowly begin to piece things back together again. Bit by bit you develop a new aptitude for your chosen task. This then continues unabated until finally you begin to realize that you starting to surpass your earlier achievement level. This is called 'The Growth Gradient'.

Throughout all my various pursuits in life - as a writer, teacher, farmer, musician and businessman I have seen this pattern in operation in every single every key experience of my life. I have seen it happen in the growth patterns of many businesses, whilst teaching students a wide variety of different subjects, during the development of any skill, whilst saving money and much more.

It is also evident in the life cycle of plants and is a well understood and accepted dynamic in the theory of economic cycles. In fact this cycle is observable in every key element to human experience. (As I write this I have witnessed it in operation during the US/Iraqi conflict of April 2003 when rapid early gains in the war gave way to defeat and frustration before a steady climb towards victory) but most importantly of all - it is in evidence in the playing of Online Casino Blackjack!

#### **Applied to Your Gambling**

Understanding that this cycle effects ALL of our initiated actions in life (including gambling) gives us a VERY important insight into how to play Blackjack successfully.

**All you have to do is to correctly identify the phase that you are in during a game you can modify both your playing and betting styles accordingly.**

Let's take a look at how this operates in practice – that is to say, during an actual game of Blackjack. To simplify the matter I have turned the five stages of the Serpent's Tooth Cycle into four key play phases. These are;

#### **Play Phase 1 - The Rise**

The early phase in a game is always the most advantageous. It is characterized by free-flowing and advantageous play. Leave the game to settle down (probably takes no more that a dozen hands) and from then I recommend loose and aggressive style of play. Double up with confidence and increase your bet size accordingly. (If you like you can play as I do and cash in during this rich and abundant period for smaller - but assured, winnings).

#### **Play Phase 2 - The Fall**

This is the stage all gamblers hate – the crashing out. It is usually characterized in a game of Blackjack by a prolonged losing streak of us to 12 or more hands. This has been known to wipe a player out completely on many occasions.

When you realize that you are in this phase DO NOT strive to re-coup your losses by increasing your bet size. This will always end in disaster. Just accept the tide is flowing against you and bet only the very minimum amount on each hand.

#### **Play Phase 3 - The Rise**

There **WILL** come a point at which the turn of play changes. The run of losing hands stops, the dust settles and you are left to confront the debris of the disaster. This is the point at which many players either blow what's left of their pot on one final desperate attempt to save face or they cash in what they have left and depart with their tails between their legs. This is a pity for the miss what turns out to be a golden opportunity to make some money.

**At this stage continue placing the minimum bet allowed but return to doubling up and splitting.**

#### **Play Phase 4 - The Growth Gradient**



The rate of growth during this phase is not as great as when the game first began - however it is consistent. Once your pot has returned to roughly where you were when you first began the game you can return to a positive and aggressive style of play.

Having successfully seen your way through the difficult early periods of the Serpent's Tooth Cycle you will enter into this magnificent period in which you consistently win hand after hand. I have entered this stage on many, many occasions and I can tell you it is pure bliss. Every hand that you get throws the dealer into crisis. BlackJacks' increase in regularity. Consistent doubling up on 13 - 17 ALWAYS produces a 20 or 21 total. Blackjacks appear in proliferation. I have entered this stage in some games that I have played and amassed so much winning money that I have almost felt sorry for the casino!

**Following this system through for the first time requires some nerve but once you have experienced it for the first time you will play with renewed confidence in subsequent games. Let me assure you that it is worth the waiting.!**

**Tip: At what stage you eventually cash in depend upon your intuition. However I generally wait until I am about 25% percent above the amount that I had in my pot at the peak and then create a Stop-Loss point. If I fall below that value I immediately stop the game and cash in.**

### **Tracking the Flow**

So how is it possible to identify which period or stage you are during a game? In earlier lessons I impressed upon you the need to keep accurate records of your games. With a little more note taking during a game you will quickly identify the phase that you are in – or even coming up to. This is how it is done.

Each time you note down your hand on the sheet take the chance to record each of your winning hands in a different color to a losing hand. I use a red pen to record my winning hands and a blue pen to mark those hands that I have lost.

After each round of about 50 rounds total up the winning (red) hands as well as the losing (blue) hands. Your results will reveals one of three things;

- A predominance of red marks - indicating that you are in a positive or rising phase
- A predominance of blue marks - indicating that you are in a negative or declining phase
- An equal number of each - which indicates that you are either moving in/out of a positive phase or in/out of a declining phase.

As your game progresses monitor total your various amounts in the box provided (W=Total of Won hands and L= Total of Lost hands).

If you keep accurate records you will easily detect over just a few 50-hand cycles which way your luck cycles are taking you. For example you may have had a few rounds in which your total of winning hands has out-stripped those that you have lost. Where this is the case your play is in positive phase.

Then you have a round in which they are equal in number. At this stage you could suspect a slip into a negative phase so you begin to adjust your playing/betting accordingly. The next round also reveals an equal or slight bias to the Loss Total. Then your suspicions are completely confirmed when you find that over the next round the number of your Loss Total is substantially greater than your Win Total. This is evidence that you are in a losing phase and marks a time for careful play.

**Continue playing with care until the count returns to indicate a positive phase.**

Now this system might seem complicated but it only takes a few minutes to practice and become a natural element to your play. You may feel that it is unnecessarily wieldy given that the pot total reveals how well you are doing. This is the beauty of the Goldhill System for your purse total **DOES NOT** do not reveal the way that your play is going to progress nor does it accurately reflect how well you are doing.

There are many reasons for this. For example you may win a couple of Blackjacks - even when the phase of play is against you. Because of the higher payment ratio for Blackjacks this would exaggerate the impression of your playing luck by inflating the betting total. It is tempting to bet more when your total is higher and so you could actually be creating problems for yourself later on by inadvertently increasing your betting at a time when your playing phase is against you.

Another reason for not relying upon the betting total is because of the use of Insurance or Doubling Up. Thus it is possible to lose money in a positive playing phase if you make a number of incorrect decisions. Thus your total pot value would fall and you would not be aware of the fact that you are actually in a current positive playing phase!

**Tip: Treat your playing statistics with respect and they will repay you time and again by revealing the optimum opportunities, or risks, before they even begin to emerge in the game itself.**

Having introduced you to the actual playing system I now want to move on to show you in a practical form you can make this all work for yourself.

## 8 - How to Achieve Blackjack Nirvana

*“Casinos and prostitutes have the same thing in common; they are both trying to screw you out of your money and send you home with a smile on your face.” - VP Pappy*

Lets start off with a very simple example of a game of Blackjack using the Goldhill System. (Remember the main thrust of this method is to ignore early gains in order to progress through the down phases to the point at which the money really starts to roll in).

**Tip: Whilst you do not have to take yourself through the difficult ‘desert-like’ region of the negative phase let me assure you that both financially and emotionally it is well worth the effort. If the idea of surrendering early gains for greater long term advantage then just cash-in your winnings made during the sudden rise in the Serpent’s Tooth Cycle. They will still be worthwhile but not as great as they will be if you progress onwards to a condition that I call ‘Blackjack Nirvana’**

### The Game

I am going to explain the practical application of this system using single betting units. These will represent \$1 in this example but you could choose to make it \$5 or \$10 if you wish though typically it works best with a casino that offers a betting range of \$1 - \$250 or even \$1 - \$500 as many now do.

I want to start with a \$200 deposit. This is attained either by a straight deposit or in conjunction with a casino bonus. I prefer to avoid using the bonus because in most occasions the Serpent’s Tooth Cycle is played out before reaching the required play through conditions established by the casino in their Terms & Conditions. (This did not used to be the case but all casinos are increasing their play through requirements dramatically).

It is highly unlikely that you will need to use the whole of the \$200 pot but starting off with a large amount increases your chances of getting through the negative phases that develop in the game.

**So then - with these parameters established you are ready to begin.**

### Stage One

The game begins and as it goes through the first couple of hundred hands early gains will be experienced. Play with 2 x base unit bets. If you lose a hand then increase the bet using the betting ratios of 1, 1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 24, 48, 98, 196 for subsequent hands. Now I agree that placing down \$196 might sound risky but at this initial level of play I rarely ever experience losing streaks of greater than six hands so you are only risking a small proportion of your pot at this stage. Remember also that if you are playing in conjunction with the casino bonus you are risking less of your own money anyway.

During this phase I always double on elevens and split all pairs - even pairs of tens sometimes. It is also a good opportunity to double up on the occasional 14, 15 or 16 if you feel confident.

### Stage Two

If your play through permits it you could easily cash in during this phase but most of the time even a seasoned player will take the opportunity of what appears to be a winning streak to continue playing until suddenly a major losing streak hits you. When it does you will know that you have entered into Phase Two - The Fall.

As soon as you recognize this reduce your betting to the very minimum (i.e. 1 x base value).

Avoid all doubling at this time and only split pairs of eights. There will be no option than to sit this period out with patience. Do not feel tempted to panic and try to re-cooperate your losses - this is not the time to do so and you will be risking crashing out completely.

### **Stage Three**

After a while - and there is no knowing how long this will be (usually less than another fifty or so hands) you will notice that the proportion of lost hands to winning hands begins to change. Indeed if you have followed my earlier advice to color code your statistics you will see that the tide has started to turn in your favor.

This is not the correct time to return to your 1, 1, 2, 4, 6, 12 etc period of play - not so much because of any chance of experiencing another extended period of losing hands but merely because your severely depleted pot will not accommodate it. At this point sit and do the following calculation.

- 1) Find out how much the value of your pot was just before it crashed - your records will show this.
- 2) Then find out what the lowest value your pot was reduced to at the end of the Fall.
- 3) Subtract one from the other to calculate how much you lost in the collapse.
- 4) Divide this value by 3.
- 5) Now take the lowest amount figure and add to it one third of the total loss figure. Once your pot has climbed up to this value again you will know that it is time to play with a renewed sense of optimism.

Lets take the following as an example of what I mean. Imagine that you have started with a \$200 pot. After the first stage of the game this has increased to \$320. Then comes the crash and it is reduced to \$110. This means that you have lost \$210.

Now divide this difference by three (i.e.  $\$210/3=\$70$ ) and you will arrive at the value of \$180 (i.e.  $\$110+\$70$ ) as the point at which it is safe to restore the 1, 1, 2, 4, 6, 12 etc system along with doubling up. As you consider doing this keep a check on your coded-coded playing statistics and wait until they indicate a shift out of the negative phase and into a positive one.

### **Cashing In**

Once your fortunes have changed you will find that the size of your pot grows consistently until eventually it soars well past the highest peak value (in this example \$320) that it had attained before you crashed earlier. From here on you can keep on going until you decide is the correct time to cash in.

In the example of a \$200 deposit I would install a stop-loss system at every \$50 after reaching \$400. During this phase you can even increase your base betting value from 1x to 2x or more - but this is down to personal preference.

Another method that I employ is this. If you have fulfilled any play through terms and conditions (and if you are not entirely sure what they are then telephone the casinos help line and they will give you an accurate figure of how much play you have left) then cash in your initial deposit (\$200). Doing so means that whatever happens now you will incur no losses. Continue playing on through Phase Three and withdraw at every \$50 or \$100 stage. This creates an automatic stop-loss system and guarantees a profit from a game.

### **Summary**

I have used this system time and again and have found it to give assured profits 90% of the time. The 1 in 10 game that I lose is usually where I have failed to follow my own rules (usually through greed, tiredness or euphoria) or where I have failed to start off with a decent sized deposit in the first instance. Thus I do recommend a minimum deposit of at least \$200 (which of course may stand you at nothing because you developed it from the free no-obligation bonus as revealed way back in Chapter 4.) In this regard your \$200 can be made to go a very long way indeed.

So that is the system. I now want to take you through 6 real-life casinos and show you how to make the whole system work for you.

---

## 9 - Five Low-Risk Blackjack Games

---

***"If you ain't just a little scared when you enter a casino, you are either very rich or you haven't studied the games enough." - VP Pappy***

In order to understand the sort of playing conditions that you will encounter I would now like to take you on a short trip through six quite different games of Blackjack - all at casinos at which I have personally achieved some measure of success with. I have made regular visits to all of them, used the Goldhill System and come away with consistent wins. I also recommend them for they are also the more reliable and efficient at paying out. Playing at these casinos will give you the chance to put into practice all of the skills that you have learnt so far.

### The Five Casinos

The casinos that we are interested in are;

- Casino 1 - William Hill Casino (<http://www.williamhillcasino.com/>)
- Casino 2 - Virgin Casino (<https://www.virgingames.com>)
- Casino 3 - Palace of Chance (<http://www.palaceofchance.com/>)
- Casino 4 - Fortune Room (<http://www.fortuneroom.com/>)
- Casino 5 - Playgate Casino (<http://www.playgatecasino.com/>)

So the first thing to do is to visit the website of each of them, download/install the software and then sign up in Guest Mode. Doing so will enable you to test out the system at each one until you are ready to play for real. You should be able to click on the links text above to go straight to the website, but if that doesn't work just copy/paste the URL into your browser.

### Casino 1: Challenge Casino

Challenge Casino is an excellent one to cut your teeth on. They presently offer what is one of the highest overall bonuses at the moment and a very low minimum betting level at just fifty cents per hand. When you sign up as a full player you also get up to \$100 Match Bonus on your first deposit, and then a further \$400 on your next deposit!

To play this casino successfully I would recommend that you make a small deposit (about \$50-\$80), then accept the casinos introductory bonus and play till you reach a decent pot (about \$150) then cash in. The seemingly small \$100 payout is NOT typical of the amount of winnings we can expect in future games but I want your first game to be an assured success.

**Tip: Remember that greed is always your worst enemy. Better to return time and again with small winnings than to risk your initial pot trying to run before you can walk.**

So now to the game itself. Challenge has a very wide betting range at its Blackjack tables - just \$0.50 minimum and \$250 maximum. As this is your first game stick to the minimum bet level at all times.

This is what I recommend you do at this casino.

- Play a safe \$0.50 per hand throughout the game.
- If you win a hand keep your bet to \$0.50
- If/when you lose a hand increase the bet for the next hand to \$1.00 (this enables you to cover your previous \$0.50 win and to add the same again for the second bet).
- If you win repeat stage 2 i.e. return to the basic \$0.50 bet

- If you lose increase the next bet to \$2.00 (this covers the two previous loses and enable you to place another \$0.50 bet)

.... And so on!

If you play this way you will find that your pot grows slowly, but steadily. If you stick religiously to the system of betting at \$0.50 each hand you can be pretty confident of making your first game a winner. Don't worry about the apparently small return on your bet for each hand (i.e. \$1.00).

Agreed this is not a high-stakes game - but there again it is not a high risk one either! Just play slow and steady and you will be amazed just how quickly your winnings will grow. This is because of two specific reasons;

**1) Blackjacks** -During the game you will have the occasional Blackjack - which of course pays out at the higher rate of 3:2. Often these occur when you are at a higher covering wager (e.g. \$3.00 and above) so you will enjoy some sizeable wins.

**2) Doubling Up** - Because you are wagering such low basic amounts per hand (\$0.50) you can afford to be more generous in doubling up when the game is going your way. Under these conditions I often sway slightly from Basic Blackjack Rules by doubling up on low tens against the dealers 4,5,6,7 or even 8's if I feel lucky. This adds considerably to the speed in growth of your pot - and adds a little spice to the game!

So there you are! I confidently expect you to come away from Challenge with a win - and they pay out reasonably quickly (within 5 days) so you should soon be ready to move on to the next game with confidence and a decent pot to play with.

## Casino 2: Casino Craze

OK, after your success at Challenge we are ready to move on to higher stakes. Don't worry if you still seem to be a long way from earning big bucks - this will come, but for now still consider yourself a student, one learning a new skill and in the highly enviable position of getting paid for it!

This time I want you to sign up at Casino Craze. We shall be playing here for \$1 minimum stakes but I have chosen Craze as a good second casino because it offers a \$500 maximum bet and because it also introduces a different playing situation. The software runs a lot faster and once you have memorized the Perfect Blackjack strategy you can cram in more hands per hour and thus also increase your hourly wage.

A second reason for recommending Casino Craze is that it does offer you a slightly higher playing edge than normal. This is because it offers the option to double on anything. I like this because it gives play a slight edge of excitement not offered by other games. At just a \$1 minimum bet you can have great fun doubling up on all sorts of card combinations.

Follow the Goldhill Playing Strategy and you should come away from Casino Craze with your second win.

## Game #3: Palace of Chance

For some reason the Goldhill System works extra-ordinarily well at the Palace of Chance Casino - which is just as well because it is an excellent casino to play at. (Their payout speed is notably faster than anyone elses.)

The table betting limits are \$1-4250 so if you are still not feeling overly confident in raising your betting stakes yet - or if your playing purse is still a modest size then this is a great casino to visit.

Palace of Chance are a good example of the wide range of bonus and promotions options that we looked at in an earlier chapter. They include a no-deposit bonus, 100% Match Bonus along with Montly recurring and Deposit Bonuses for Neteller Account holders.

Play your game of Blackjack at the Palace in much the same way as casinos 1 and 2 - carefully! Just take your time and allow your playing skills to develop. The idea in these first couple of casinos is to increase your playing pot for larger games later on safely and in small increments

#### **Game #4: Fortune Lounge**

The next casino on our list is Fortune Lounge. We will be increasing your betting minimum again - from \$1 to \$2 - and thus be assured of larger payouts. I have included Fortune Lounge not only for the quality of game that it offers but also for the fact that I have found it to be the best, most ethical and reliable casino to play at. There are several facets to the casino that gives it an edge and I particularly like the fact that it strives to keep you up to date with your play and payment history and has excellent telephone and email support if you need it.

As to the game itself Fortune Lounge offers a great opportunity for a sizeable win. I feel that the Blackjack games here in particular offer the player a real edge over the house (a rarity in itself!). The betting limits on the game are from \$2 to \$500, it allows you to double on split aces - and much more as you will discover. To get the best out of this game I would recommend that you start with a \$300 deposit if you have it. If this seems too much then you can get away with a lesser amount as a first time player using their introductory bonus.

#### **Game # 5 - Play Gate Casino**

And finally in this section I have included another favorite of mine - PlayGate Casino. I have chosen this one because it is quite different to any of the earlier casinos that we visited. I can quite understand it if, once they have joined, players never leave Play Gate to play anywhere else. It seems to have it all - and some more!

The casino includes a range of different table types that includes a Public Table (one at which anyone can play), a Reserved Table (A table where players must ask your permission before they can join) and a Private (A table at which only you play). The new player bonus of \$1000 is also unmatched elsewhere. Bear in mind that to get the \$1000 you will need to make 4 separate deposits, and there are terms and conditions attached.

Each table has a range of different betting options so depending upon how well you have coped with the first four casino you can chose the right one for you. The ranges are \$1-\$100, \$5-\$500 and \$25-\$1000.

#### **In Conclusion**

So there we have it! I have taken you on a brief guided tour around some typical and non-typical casinos that are on the Internet. Remember that you can sign up to each casino in Guest Mode first, then claim their Free No-Obligation Bonus and finally when you place down your serious money - the Introductory Bonus.

When you consider the opportunity that the Perfect Blackjack Strategy offers along with the added bonuses on offer you can see that you are armed with some serious gambling opportunities. Add to it the knowledge that there are good times and also bad times in a game to take risks and you have a very powerful strategy for making some very amounts of money.

Now try your hand at some of the casinos suggested in the Top ten casino list and repeat your luck. After that you can scout the web for plenty of other casinos to play. New ones open all the time.

I trust that you will have found this manual a very worthwhile investment and I bid you well on your playing career - and remember when you know what you are doing luck doesn't come into it!

— <> —



---

## 10 - References and Resources

---

### QUOTE HERE

I understand that if you are new to the world of online gaming you might feel a little disorientated by the information and opportunities that have been presented to you in this manual. Don't worry for included in this section are some of the best places to go for help, advice and guidance. There is a very real gambling community out there ready to help you in your pursuit of casino success.

### Blacklisted Casinos

If you are worried about a particular casino - or just want to know which ones to avoid any of the following are good places to checkout any problem or blacklisted sites.

Compare Online Gambling (<http://www.comparegambling.co.uk/>)  
Top Casinos.com (<http://www.20topcasinos.com/blacklisted.htm/>)  
Games and Casino (<http://www.gamesandcasino.com/blacklist.htm/>)  
SOL Casinos ([http://www.secure-online-casinos.com/blacklisted\\_casinos.htm/](http://www.secure-online-casinos.com/blacklisted_casinos.htm/))

### Blackjack Newsletters

Unfortunately there are not too many good Blackjack newsletters around. A better place to get regular updates in the Blackjack world can be found at the Discussion Forums and Yahoo Groups. These newsletters are certainly worth signing up to though.

Mayer Blackjack newsletter (<http://www.playhard.co.uk/mayer/>)  
The Wizard of Odds (<http://wizardofodds.com/subscribe/welcome.html/>)

### Blackjack Sites

The following are sites that contain purely Blackjack related content.

- All About Blackjack (<http://www.allaboutblackjack.com/>)
- Ace-Tens (<http://www.ace-ten.com/>)
- Blackjack #1 (<http://www.blackjack-01.com/>)
- Blackjack Center (<http://www.blackjackcenter.com/>)
- Blackjack Info (<http://www.blackjackinfo.com/>)
- Blackjack Man (<http://www.blackjackman.com/>)
- Blackjack on AdvantagePlayer (<http://www.rge21.com/>)
- Blackjack Plaza (<http://www.blackjackplaza.com/>)
- Blackjack Gambler (<http://www.blackjack-gambler.com/>)
- Blackjack Heaven (<http://www.blackheaven.com/>)
- Blackjack On The Web (<http://www.blackjackontheweb.com/>)
- Blackjack Play (<http://www.blackjack-play.com/>)
- Blackjack Prophet (<http://www.blackjackprophet.com/>)
- Blackjack Review Network (<http://www.bjrnet.com/>)
- Blackjack Strategy Card (<http://www.blackjack-strategycard.com/>)
- Blackjack Tips (<http://www.blackjacktips.net/>)
- Blackjack 2002 (<http://www.blackjack2002.com/>)



- Free Blackjack Tips (<http://www.freeblackjacktips.com/>)
- Hit or Stand (<http://www.hitorstand.net/>)
- Online Blackjack (<http://www.online-blackjack.com/>)
- Online Blackjack Guide (<http://www.onlineblackjackguide.com/>)
- Stanford Wong (<http://www.bj21.com/>)

## Blackjack Tutorials

If you would like to find out more about playing Blackjack (including at offline casinos) then any of the following sites are recommended.

- GameMaster's Blackjack School (<http://www.freeblackjacktips.com/bjschool.html/>)
- Precision Blackjack (<http://www.precision21.com/>)
- Blackjack Dictionary (<http://www.casinochecker.com/know/dictionary/blackjack/>)
- Blackjack Dictionary ([http://www.casinochecker.com/casino\\_knowledge/dictionary/general/](http://www.casinochecker.com/casino_knowledge/dictionary/general/))

## Casino Directories

Here is a list of those sites that contain links to the most popular casinos on the Internet today.

- Internet Casino List (<http://www.internetcasinolist.com/>)
- Gambling Pro (<http://www.gambling-pro.com/>)
- Captains Free Casinos (<http://www.captains-free-casinos.com/>)
- Online Casino Directory (<http://www.online-casino-directory.com/>)
- UK Casino Directory (<http://www.playhard.co.uk/>)

## Casino Bonuses

If you are interested purely in which casino is offering the best bonuses then the following will help.

- All Casino Bonuses (<http://www.all-casino-bonuses.com/>)
- Hot Bonuses (<http://www.hotbonuses.com/>)

## Discussion Forums

These are the places to go if you want to connect with other like-minded players.

- Blackjack Professional (<http://www.webhome.idirect.com/~blakjack/bjboards.htm/>)
- Winner Online (<http://www.winneronline.com/>)
- UK Online Gambling Association (<http://www.ukoga.org/>)
- Gambling Forum (<http://www.gambling-forum.com/forum2/>)

## Newsgroups

The following Newsgroups are active and contain Blackjack and related postings.

- alt.gambling
- rec.gambling
- rec.gambling.blackjack
- uk.rec.gambling.misc

— <> —